



THE SAFETY NET

A newsletter of the Delaware Department of Safety and Homeland Security

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Our mission is to promote and protect the safety of people and property in Delaware

GOV. MINNER RECOGNIZES DSP ACCREDITATION

Gov. Ruth Ann Minner presented Col. Thomas F. Mac Leish with a proclamation recognizing the Delaware State Police for achieving its second Meritorious Re-Accreditation Award.

The State Police received this esteemed honor from the Commission on Law Enforcement Accreditation (CALEA) on July 24, 2007. The award culminated a weeklong review, by a national team of assessors, of the agency's policies, procedures, files, rules and regulations. In addition to the review, the assessors conducted on site inspections of State Police facilities, conducted interviews with staff members, fielded comments from the citizenry of Delaware and completed ride alongs with Troopers in the field.

"Our state troopers and civilian support staff work hard every day to serve the people of our State, and I'm proud that their commitment and dedication has been recognized through this award," Gov. Ruth Ann Minner said. "I cannot thank the men and women of our Delaware State Police enough for their tireless efforts to protect and serve the people of Delaware."

Colonel Thomas F. Mac Leish, Superintendent of the Delaware State Police said, "To be recognized as a model agency for our progressive and professional style of policing is very rewarding. It only benefits the citizens of this great State to have a law enforcement agency that strives to be exemplary in every facet of what they do."



Secretary David Mitchell of the Department of Safety and Homeland Security said, "I am very proud of the division of State Police for the diligence and focus that was necessary to achieve such an accomplishment. It does not stop here. We look forward to the next accreditation process as we always welcome the opportunity to showcase our skilled, dedicated and innovative police force."

The Commission on Law Enforcement Accreditation advises that only 607, or 3.39%, of law enforcement agencies nationally are accredited, of which 16 are state police or highway patrol agencies.

In Delaware, the State Police is one of seven agencies accredited. The DSP was initially accredited on July 24, 1988 and has continued to meet the stringent criteria that consist of approximately 1,600 standards. Every three years, the DSP is required to demonstrate to the Commission that these standards are met daily.

STOP AGGRESSIVE DRIVING CAMPAIGN FINAL STATISTICS

The Office of Highway Safety reported final statistics for its Aggressive Driving Campaign. Since the start of the campaign in July, seven participating police agencies made 238 aggressive driving arrests. In addition, police issued thousands of citations for various aggressive driving-related violations. They include 617 citations for disregarding a traffic control device, 392 citations for passing on the shoulder, 630 citations for unsafe lane change, 266 citations for following too close, 44 citations for failure to yield, 528 citations for failure to stop and 5,542 citations for speeding.

PREPARE FOR EMERGENCIES BEFORE THEY HAPPEN

Resolve to be Ready in 2008

www.ready.gov

Here's something to think about ... you should keep enough supplies in your home to meet the needs of you and your family for at least three days.

PREPARE. PLAN. STAY INFORMED

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY

During the holiday season, we gather with family and friends to give thanks and celebrate the joys of the previous year. As Secretary, I am especially thankful for you, the talented, hard-working, employees of this Department.

This was a great year for the Department and each division can boast of numerous successes. Just a few weeks ago, I had the opportunity to share some of our accomplishments with Gov. Minner and members of her Cabinet. I will highlight a few.

In 2007, the Delaware State Police saw a 2.9% reduction in overall crime. Three new units—Sex Offender Apprehension and Registration Unit; Internet Crimes Against Children Unit and Forensic Firearms Unit—helped facilitate the crime reduction.

The Div. of Alcohol and Tobacco Enforcement used zero tolerance enforcement and merchant education to keep tobacco products out of the hands of our youth. Its diligence has resulted in a 95% tobacco compliance rate—the highest in the nation.

Making certain our State is prepared for the unexpected, the Delaware Emergency Management Agency trained hundreds of

emergency responders and held numerous exercises to test our plans and readiness. The Div. of Communications continued to maintain the State's 800 MHz system providing a vital emergency communications link for our first responders.

The Office of Highway Safety and DSP worked together to reduce vehicle crashes and fatalities. Two high profile programs targeted aggressive driving and driving under the influence of alcohol. Highways fatalities for the State are slightly lower than the previous year, but the number of crashes due to aggressive driving is very concerning. Excessive speed is most often the cause.

Capitol Police provided security at State buildings including the various courthouses in each county seizing drugs and confiscating a host of weapons. The Developmental Disabilities Council continued to provide support and serve as the voice for the State's special needs population.

I am extremely proud to lead such a capable and committed staff. May all the gifts of this season warm your heart and those close to you. Happy Holidays to you and your family. *Secretary David B. Mitchell*

DSHS HOSTS SHOT SPOTTER DEMO

DSHS Secretary David Mitchell hosted a demonstration of the ShotSpotter gunshot location technology for local law enforcement interested in new and innovative ways to solve shooting crimes.

"There is no single solution to reducing violent crimes especially those that involve shootings. We must explore a variety of resources including new technology like ShotSpotter to help us fight crime and make our communities safer," Secretary Mitchell said. "This technology has proven beneficial in other urban areas throughout the country and several members of the law enforcement community learned how it could enhance our response to shootings in Delaware.

The ShotSpotter technology detects gunfire up to a mile away. In a multi-shot incident, the system reports the

location of each individual shot so that officers are dispatched to the correct location with information about the number of shots fired and the number of shooters.

In 2004, at the direction of Gov. Ruth Ann Minner, Sec. Mitchell began meeting with Wilmington Public Safety Director James Mosley, Wilmington Police Chief Michael Szczerba and New Castle County Public Safety Director Ernest Frazier to discuss strategies to reduce gun violence in the Wilmington area. Those meetings have continued and the demonstration of the ShotSpotter technology is an outgrowth of the meetings.

"We have looked at various ways technology can enable us to be more effective with limited resources. Reducing violent crimes is not easy and we must look at all possible solutions including the use of technology to investigate and solve crimes," he said.

Gov. Minner & DSHS Host Homeland Security Symposium

Gov. Ruth Ann Minner, co-chair of the National Policy Consensus Center, and DSHS Secretary Dave Mitchell hosted a two-day symposium bringing state and federal government representatives together to collaborate on current homeland security concerns.

During the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Collaboration Symposium, representatives from California, Colorado, Oregon, Utah, West Virginia and Delaware exchanged information about homeland security issues in their states including an increasing need for public and private partnerships and increased coordination at the local, state and federal level.

A significant portion of the symposium was devoted to identifying opportunities for collaboration on future programs including those that involve emerging technology and federal mandates.

The group also expressed the importance of establishing an ongoing dialogue with homeland security partners throughout the country.

"Creating a comprehensive homeland security plan requires a partnership. Working together not only makes our security plans and programs stronger in Delaware but it also gives us insight into regional and national homeland security issues. With this information, we can use lessons learned in other states to proactively address potential problem areas here," Sec. Mitchell said.

Symposium attendees were appreciative to Gov. Minner for the opportunity to meet their peers and share their best practices as well as lessons learned.

DSP NEWS

TROOPERS APPREHEND

RAPE SUSPECT

DSP arrested a man wanted in connection with a serial sexual assault investigation. The 22-year-old Bear man was apprehended shortly after midnight on October 16 when undercover detectives observed the suspect's black vehicle as he drove on Old Summit Road at Old County Road. Troopers took the man into custody without incident as he was accompanied by what would have proven to be his latest victim. This female was picked up on Main Street in Elkton. He was transported back to Troop 2 where the investigation continued. Investigators located evidence in the vehicle which implicated him to the ongoing sexual assaults in the New Castle County area. He was charged with several counts of Rape, Unlawful Sexual Contact, Kidnapping and Possession of a Deadly Weapon during the Commission of a Felony. He was committed to the Howard Young Correctional Institute in lieu of \$455,000 cash bail.

DSP HOSTS HOMICIDE CONFERENCE

The Delaware State Police hosted its 12th Annual Homicide Conference attracting more than 160 participants from 10 states. This was an excellent opportunity for law enforcement to receive the highest caliber of training available in the area. Nationally recognized speakers provided instruction on a variety of topics including case management, forensic pathology, domestic related homicides and deadly force issues. The Pennsylvania Amish School Shooting and the Virginia Tech Shooting were profiled. In addition, participants were able to network and make contacts with law enforcement from throughout the State, as well as with agencies from the East Coast Region.

DEMA ASSEMBLES

ANIMAL RESPONSE TEAM



The first Delaware State Animal Response Team (DE SART) Summit was sponsored by DEMA and the Dept. of Agriculture. The Summit brought together representatives of private and public organizations and agencies that will play vital roles in the on-going development of a response plan for companion animals should emergencies and disruptive events occur in Delaware.

Deputy Secretary Elizabeth Olsen and DEMA Director Jamie Turner addressed the summit attendees. The summit examined the SART concept and practices, and the establishment of effective public/private partnerships that will ensure Delaware's compliance with the Federal Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act. The PETS Act authorizes rescue, care, shelter and provision of essential needs for individuals with household pets and service animals.

HIGHWAY SAFETY NEWS

OHS SAFE FAMILY CAMPAIGN

The Office of Highway Safety's annual Safe Family Holiday Campaign is a comprehensive enforcement and awareness that runs from Thanksgiving through New Year's Day. Aimed at stopping impaired and other dangerous drivers, OHS has coordinated an intensive DUI enforcement plan which includes 26 sobriety checkpoints and 342 additional DUI saturation patrols. Public education in the form of billboard, radio, television, internet, and print ads will support the enforcement effort.

OHS staff hosted "mocktail" parties at various locations statewide to distribute safety information, responsible party hosting tips, and samples of "smart" party foods. Again this year, OHS placed DUI trees in each DMV lobby to illustrate the number of DUI-related crashes and fatalities occurring during the holiday season. The colored light bulbs on the trees represent crash victims.

In addition, OHS promoted its partnership with the HERO campaign for Designated Drivers. Bars and restaurants throughout the state will be provided with display materials and a plan for promoting designated drivers within their business. Designated Driver pledge cards will be distributed at sobriety checkpoints, college football games and through corporate outreach.

CITIZEN CORPS WINS ALL HAZARDS FORUM AWARD

Delaware Citizen Corps Coordinators Robert George and Marny McLee accepted an award from the All Hazards Consortium in recognition of Delaware's leadership in the area of regional emergency readiness and response.

"It is through the leadership of the Delaware Emergency Management Agency (DEMA) and the Delaware Citizen Corps that our State has made such progress in the area of citizen emergency preparedness and response. This award highlights the countless hours of work both agencies have dedicated to recruiting citizens who comprise multiple Citizen Corps Councils in towns and communities throughout the State," Sec. Mitchell said.

The Councils teach citizens personal emergency preparedness so that in the event of an emergency they can care for themselves and help others in need. Citizen Corps has also established partnerships with various groups willing to offer their services during an emergency. One unique project is the formation of the Delaware Communication Corps which provides a large pool of skilled amateur radio operators who have established partnerships with similar groups in neighboring states. The award was presented during the Regional All Hazards Forum held at the Baltimore Convention Center, Baltimore, Md. The Mid-Atlantic All Hazards Forum (AHF) is a public-private partnership of Mid-Atlantic States and private corporations.

DSHS EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

CHOICE AWARD WINNER

2nd Quarter — Maria Fry (DivComm)

Maria is an integral part of several projects underway at DivComm. She assumed responsibility for tower lease management and designed a system to manage tower lease expenditures and revenue which provides the State a profit/loss assessment for the next 30 years. Utilizing this program, she initially discovered and collected over \$80,000 in payments which had not been collected while the program was managed by DTI. Since then, this program and her oversight has ensured that payments have been collected and distributed on time.

Maria took the lead in the development of the Maintenance Management System program used by DivComm. Her vast knowledge and broad understanding of all facets of the Division contributed to improvements throughout all functional areas.

To manage DivComm's strategic plan and budget she implemented a software accounting program to record and monitor purchases, expenditures, transfers and account balances. This complex program provides management an easy to read, real-time picture of account balances, encumbrances, and expenditures. Maria was instrumental in working out the inevitable bugs involved in this massive undertaking. Additionally, she was very conscientious in her attempts to gather needed information in a timely manner. Her innovative ideas in these areas have resulted



DSP NAMES KEITH CASKEY CIVILIAN OF THE YEAR

Keith Caskey, manager of the DSP Information Support Services Section, has been employed by DSP for 32 years. His history with DSP began in the Communications Section, but he took an interest in supporting DSP's Honeywell Message Switcher. This Message Switcher was DSP's original legacy switch connecting DSP to both Nlets and the FBI's NCIC System. He took responsibility for this project, and literally taught himself both its communication protocol as well as its programming language. He became DSP's first Message Switching Specialist and was identified as the subject matter expert necessary to guide the Division as it migrated to its current communications protocol with the advent of the NCIC 2000 system. Today, Mr. Caskey continues to provide the core knowledge base for DSP's mission critical connection to its federal partners via the more modern Central Message Processor.

He became Manager of the Information Support Services Section 8 years ago. DSP has become technology dependent and Mr. Caskey and his section have responded to those needs in an exemplary manner. More often than not, Mr. Caskey has had to balance these Divisional demands with the limited resources he is afforded annually. Even with this restriction, the Information Support Services Section under Mr. Caskey's leadership continues to deliver and be responsive to the Division, its local law enforcement partners, other state agencies, and all of DSP's individual users. Often asked to do more with less, Mr. Caskey continually responds to divisional requests with a strategy of sound leadership, loyal support, and an emphasis on "officer and public safety first".

ASK THE GEEK??

Welcome to the newsletter's Ask the Geek column. This column will answer some of your computer questions. Personal computer questions are fine also. To ask the geek a question, just send an email to de_homelandsecurityinfo@state.de.us. Let's start with a question the geek gets all of the time.

Every time I leave my desk for a few minutes, my computer locks and I have to enter my password again. Can you change these settings?

As much as the geek would like to blame DTI for this ☺, he won't. Proper computer security standards state that you should lock your computer when you leave your desk for any reason. Let's look at why this may be necessary. If you have a spreadsheet open with sensitive and/or classified information in it and you leave your desk, it's possible that someone could view the information while you are away. Another reason would be that some of us work in public-access buildings, and it is possible that someone off the street could walk up to your computer and compromise the state's network. Additionally, if you leave your desk and your computer is unlocked, another employee could send email **as you** or access files that you have access to. Proper computer security protocols are an attempt to mitigate security holes from *both inside and outside* of the Agency. So, yes the geek **can** change these settings, but he **won't**. "Can't you change it just for me?" **NO.**

The geek is responsible for taking appropriate measures for network and PC security and is rather inflexible concerning this issue. That's the column for this newsletter. Have a happy holiday, and remember, if you have a question for the geek send your email to de_homelandsecurityinfo@state.de.us